EXHIBIT 8
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HB 2

MONTANA RESOURCES

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January 22, 2009

Chairman Villa & Committee Members
Joint Subcommittee on Education
Room 152
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Mr. Chairman & Committee Members:

My name is Tad Dale and I am Vice President of Human Resources for Montana Resources, LLP in Butte, Montana. Montana Resources (MR) operates the lowest ore grade open pit copper and molybdenum mine in the world. . Thank you for allowing me to make some brief comments on the association between Montana Resources' and Montana Tech of the University of Montana as business partners.

I also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mining Engineering from Montana Tech, class of 1973. As you can imagine, Montana Resources is a large benefactor of the output of Montana Tech. The professions cover a wide spectrum of Montana Tech's degree programs. MR employs mining engineers, metallurgical engineers, occupational safety and health professionals, environmental engineers, biologists, chemical engineers, business majors, surveyors, welders, general engineers and others. All of these skill sets are needed to safely operate one of the largest businesses in the Butte/Anaconda area.

Interns also make up an important segment of our workforce when catch up projects need to be completed during the summer months. Some of these interns stay on and work during the school year at a maximum of 20 hours per week. MR employs over 40 interns per year with about 25 of these being students from Montana Tech. The other students are from the other units of the University System including the Colleges of Technology. This work relationship provides valuable hands-on training while students are working toward their desired professions.

MR has had a long standing contractual agreement with Montana Tech to perform vegetation studies of all of the different aspects of location, soil types, and seed mixtures represented at our mine site. This service comes from the biology and general engineering departments.

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, located on the Montana Tech campus, is also a vital player in the monitoring and reporting of surface and ground water quantity and quality with the guidance of their highly skilled hydrologists. This information and expertise allows

Butte-Silver Bow, state agencies, the EPA, citizen groups, mining companies, and other land holders in the Butte area to make informed land use decisions and plan for the future. The Bureau also provides these valuable services and other services to the rest of the citizens across Montana, an example would be coal resource evaluation and saline seep studies.

Summarizing , all of Montana benefits from the success of Montana Resources. Montana Resources works with many business partners to insure that we can continue to operate efficiently and remain a low cost producer in the world marketplace and provide employment to our highly skilled workforce of 348 direct personnel. The economic multiplier of a natural resource producer adds many, many more jobs in Butte and across the state. Montana Tech is indeed a valuable "business partner". Their viability is important to you as our representatives and to Montana Resources.

I have included a breakdown of the economic benefit that MR provides. This comes from production and property taxes and from direct purchase orders. IN 2008, MR paid over $26 million in purchase orders to the Butte/Anaconda area and over $13 million in purchase orders to the rest of Montana. Also, Butte/Silver Bow received about $7 million in production and property taxes and the state of Montana received over $10 million in Metal Mines Taxes.

Montana Tech helps make Montana Resources successful. Let's keep the **teamwork** going!

Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of Montana Resources on this fine institution.

Sincerely,

Tad Dale

Tad Dale, P.E.
V.P. Human Resources

Copies: Rolin Erickson, President of Montana Resources

Production / Property Tax and PO Activity

	December	YTD
Silver Bow (Purchase Orders)	1,290,438	26,071,699
Property /GP Taxes Paid BSB		$6,899,896
Total to BSB	$1,290,438	*$32,971,595*
Montana PO's	418,123	13,405,385
MM Taxes Paid to MT		$10,206,492
Total to MT	$418,123	*$23,608,877*
Out of State PO's	6,970,377	71,913,614